

**2014-2015
SCHOOL YEAR**

**DATES TO
REMEMBER**

- Winter Starts:
December 21 at 6:03 PM
- Severe Weather
Awareness Posters Due:
February 15
- Spring Starts:
March 20 at 6:45 PM
- Severe Weather
Awareness Week:
April 12 to 18
- Statewide Tornado Drill:
Wednesday, April 15 at
1 PM
- Summer Starts:
June 21 at 12:38 PM

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National Weather Service School Newsletter

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DETROIT/PONTIAC

NOVEMBER 2014

Weather Safety at School

TORNADOES: Each school should have a tornado safety plan established and conduct drills frequently. Practicing ensures everyone knows what to do in the event of a tornado and can reduce panic. Be prepared to take action as soon as the warning is issued. The goal is to get everyone to safety in 60 seconds. Acceptable shelter areas should be identified well in advance and should not include portable classrooms or large open areas, such as gyms and lunchrooms with exterior walls. Shelter areas should also be free of windows. Safety procedures should include all after school events as well.

And finally– know the difference between a Tornado WATCH and a Tornado WARNING:

A WATCH means WATCH the Storm

A WARNING means Take Action NOW!



LIGHTNING: Staying indoors is the first step in lightning safety, but there still are dangers lurking inside a building or home. Don't have any contact with conductive surfaces with exposure to the outside such as metal doors or window frames, electrical wiring, telephone wiring, cable TV wiring, plumbing, etc. Lightning can travel down phone and water lines.

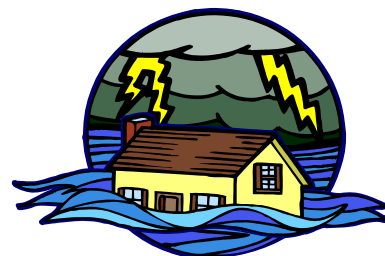
A phenomenon called "a BOLT from the BLUE", can send a lightning strike over 25 miles away from the rain. Remember, if you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck!

For more information on how to keep your school safe– visit this web site by the Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness: http://www.mcswa.com/SCHOOL_PLN4.pdf

Top Weather Killers

Tornadoes and Hurricanes are what most people think top this list– but surprisingly, they don't make the top 4!

1. Excessive Cold– kills over 600 people annually
2. Excessive Heat– kills over 350 people annually
3. Floods– kills around 100 people annually
4. Lightning– kills an average of 73 annually



The best prevention is to stay informed on changing conditions and prepare accordingly. Never drive through a flooded area and stay indoors during thunderstorms. Remember: Turn Around– Don't Drown!

Get Excited for Science by Playing Games!

New NASA Educational iPhone Game

Check out the latest educational game from NASA's Space Place—OFFSET! Take matters into your own hands and help cut back on carbon emissions to slow the pace of global warming. Part pong, part resource-management, and 100% retro, this game is challenging, exciting, and educational. Players learn how the global carbon cycle works, about different sources of carbon, and about the ways alternative energy and reforestation can help offset those sources. And if a player wants to succeed, they will also learn the importance of having quick fingers and strong multi-tasking skills! Download it today: <http://tinyurl.com/p8rcrwn>.



Play Climate Trivia



How much do you know about climate science? Would you call yourself an expert? Would you dare call yourself a guru? There's only one way to find out—play Climate Kids Trivia! Kids learn as they test their knowledge. Incorrect answers are comical and entertaining, and each question comes with a clear explanation. Get them all right and become a Climate Kids guru! [http://](http://climatekids.nasa.gov/trivia)

climatekids.nasa.gov/trivia. Climate Kids is a NASA educational website about climate change and sustainability. It targets upper-elementary-age children.

SciJinks' Mobile Game

A distress call from an emergency beacon goes off somewhere in the world. Satellites orbiting high above Earth receive the signal and relay the person's location to search and rescue crews on the ground. In SciJinks' new mobile game, Rescue 406, you will use the information from these satellites to direct the rescue effort. You'll need to be quick to keep up with an increasing number of people in trouble! Download it today at the Apple iTunes store: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/rescue-406/id694112931?mt=8>.

SciJinks is a joint NOAA and NASA educational website about weather and other Earth science topics. It targets middle- and high-school aged students. You can access the SciJinks website at: <http://scijinks.jpl.nasa.gov/>



2015 Poster Contest

Michigan experiences an average of 16 tornadoes each year, causing millions in damages and threatening the lives of residents. To encourage students to think about the importance of being prepared in the event of severe weather, the Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness is sponsoring its annual Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest. Information about this year's contest is on the Committee's web site, <http://www.mcswa.com/Poster-Contest.html>.



1st Place winner from 2014

The contest is open to students in fourth or fifth grades. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place, as well as an honorable mention.

Each year, winners of the poster contest are recognized and presented their awards at a ceremony held in the State Capitol in Lansing during Severe Weather Awareness Week, April 12 to 18, 2015. Last year's winning posters may be viewed on the committee's website, www.mcswa.com.

The Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness was formed in 1991 to promote safety awareness regarding tornadoes, floods and winter storms. The Committee includes representatives from the National Weather Service, Michigan Department of State Police, Insurance Institute of Michigan, Michigan Emergency Management Association, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, WDIV-TV, State Farm Insurance, Michigan Earth Science Teachers Association, DTE Energy, Michigan Department of Community Health and Michigan Sheriffs' Association.

Southeast Michigan CoCoRaHS

CoCoRaHS is an acronym for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. CoCoRaHS is a unique, non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow). By using low-cost measurement tools, stressing training and education, and utilizing an interactive Web-site, their aim is to provide the highest quality data for natural resource, education and research applications. CoCoRaHS is now in all fifty states.

CoCoRaHS is used by a wide variety of organizations and individuals. The National Weather Service, other meteorologists, hydrologists, emergency managers, city utilities (water supply, water conservation, storm water), insurance adjusters, USDA, engineers, mosquito control, ranchers and farmers, outdoor & recreation interests, teachers, students, and neighbors in the community are just some examples of those who visit the website and use the data.

The Michigan State Climate Office and the National Weather Service encourage schools to participate in the Michigan CoCoRaHS Network. Your students will enjoy taking measurements of rain and snow at their own school and seeing reports appear on both national and state maps! The CoCoRaHS website also contains lesson plans and activities on a variety of weather topics.

To join, complete the online training and order your rain gauge...or just visit the site and view the data at www.cocorahs.org



Internet Weather Education Resources

The internet is a wonderful tool to learn about all different aspects of weather and weather safety. There are many weather education and safety resources available. We have combined a few of the best that NOAA and the NWS have to offer:

- earth.nullschool.net—view different levels, variables, times across the world
- JetStream Weather School - <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/jetstream/>
- Young Meteorologist Program - <http://www.youngmeteorologist.org/>
- Young Meteorologist Game - <http://www.youngmeteorologist.org/game/index.html>
- NOAA Teaches Weather in Second Life - http://www.spacetoday.org/NOAA/SecondLife/NOAA_SecondLife.html
- NWS You Tube Channel - <http://www.youtube.com/user/usweathergov?feature=watch>
- Water Cycle You Tube Video - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzY5-NZSzVw&feature=relmfu>
- Weather Education Online Weather Resources - <http://www.weather.gov/education>
- NWS Detroit/Pontiac Preparedness Web Page - <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dtx/?n=preparedness>
- Owlle Skywarn Safety and Coloring Book - <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/brochures/OwlleSkywarnBrochure.pdf>
- Cloud Chart - <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/brochures/cloudchart.pdf>
- Local Brochure on Meteorology Careers - <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/images/dtx/preparedness/careersLocal.pdf>

NWS Detroit Social Media

ON LINE: www.crh.noaa.gov/dtx

ON FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/NWSDetroit>

ON TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/NWSDetroit>

ON YOUTUBE: <http://www.youtube.com/user/NWSDetroit?feature=watch>

NWS Tours and Presentations

The National Weather Service Detroit/Pontiac office in White Lake, Michigan will continue to offer opportunities for meteorologists to speak with students and teachers. However, there are limitations to our availability.

Tours can be conducted at the NWS office during day time hours or in the evening, Monday through Friday subject to NWS staff availability. The evening tour features the weather balloon release. Tours are limited to 25 people and must be scheduled at least 4 weeks in advance. The tours are free and last just over one hour.

School weather presentations can be tailored to all age groups. The weather presentation will only be 30 minutes for the youngest grades, about 45 minutes for the middle grades, and about one hour for middle and high school. Scheduling of talks will be on a first-come, first-serve basis throughout the year. Weather talks are free as well. For more information please contact, Rich Pollman at either 248-625-3309 x726 or Richard.pollman@noaa.gov

